

Urban District of Brixham



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

1941



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Urban District of Brixham

Chairman of the Council :

COUNCILLOR C. M. ASHFORD, J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE :

Chairman : COUNCILLOR W. E. HILL

ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

HOUSING COMMITTEE :

Chairman : COUNCILLOR H. G. GEORGE

ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council :

SANDERS LEAR

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF :

Medical Officer of Health and Medical Officer for
Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, and
Port Medical Officer :

††ANDREW DICK, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health
and Port Medical Officer :

*†L. INGRAM DUNCAN, M.B., Ch.B.

Sanitary Inspector and Inspector of Meat and Foods,
Port Health Inspector, Housing Officer, and
Inspector under the Petroleum and Explosives Acts :

††FRANCIS LAWRENCE GODFREY,
A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

*Part time.

†Whole time.

†Salary contribution by Exchequer Grants.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR

THE URBAN DISTRICT OF BRIXHAM

FOR 1941.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1941. In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health the report is confined to essential statistics. One or two matters which have a bearing on war-time conditions call for special note.

1. DIPHTHERIA & DIPHTHERIA, IMMUNISATION.

The outbreak of Diphtheria which commenced in early winter of 1940, (there were 34 cases), continued, and caused a further 46 cases in 1941 ; the attack ended during September. Fortunately the germ was not of the severe virulent type, and there were no deaths.

Immunisation, which had never been carried out in Brixham, was commenced, and 126 children, aged 5 to 15 years, and 26 aged 1 to 5 years, were fully protected ; at the end of the year arrangements had been made to continue the immunisation of all children whose parents consented.

2. EVACUATION.

The reception of a large number of evacuated children in June, 1940, (about 1400), into the town, was soon followed by the appearance of Scabies and Impetigo—two contagious skin conditions which, in a short time, spread to the resident native children.

A Hostel, which had been opened in 1940, to accommodate minor ailments among evacuated children, was put into use for the treatment of Scabies, and the contagion was thus kept in check.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant.

A. DICK,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District	...	...	...	5,626 acres
Population, 1931 Census	...	...	...	8,147
„ Estimated to middle of 1941	...	...	...	9,896
Number of Inhabited Houses, 1941 (approx.)				2,615
Rateable Value of District at April 1st, 1941—				
Inside Harbour Area	...	...	...	£45,667
Outside „ „	...	...	...	£3,513
			Total	£49,180

VITAL STATISTICS, 1941.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate ...	66	82	148
Illegitimate	6	5	11

72	87	159
----	----	-----

Rate per 1,000 of the
estimated resident
population ... 16.06

STILL BIRTHS.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate ...	2	2	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—

2	2	4
---	---	---

Rate per 1,000, total
live and still births
... .. 24.5

DEATHS.

Male.	Female.	Total.
77	71	148

Death rate per 1,000 of the esti-
mated resident population ... 14.95

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate ...	3	2	5
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Rate per 1,000 of the
live & still births, 27.9

Deaths from Puerperal Causes—

Puerperal Sepsis ...	...	1
Other Puerperal Causes	—	—

Rate per 1,000 live
and still births ... 5.5

RAINFALL, 1941

The rainfall registered at Combe Bank, by Mr. H. Clayton, Brixham, for 1941, was as follows: January, 5.40 inches; February, 5.62; March, 3.57; April, 1.63; May, 2.30; June, 2.97; July .91; August, 4.59; September, 1.85; October, 1.48; November, 2.45; December, 4.50; total of 36.26 inches. The heaviest rainfall for the year was on June 4th, with 1.40 in. The average for the last 10 years is 41.23, and for the last 20 years 43.15.

By courtesy of Sir Harold Clayton.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1941 (As supplied by Registrar General)

Disease	Male	Female	Total
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever ...			
Measles		1	1
Scarlet Fever			
Whooping Cough		1	1
Diphtheria			
Influenza		2	2
Enceph Lethargica			
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	1	2
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	4	2	6
Other Tuberculosis	1		1
Syphilis			
Cancer	14	14	28
Diabetes	1	1	2
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	4	6	10
Heart Disease	16	6	22
Other Circulatory Diseases	4	1	5
Bronchitis	3	2	5
Pneumonia (all forms)	4	1	5
Other Respiratory Diseases		1	1
Peptic Ulcer		1	1
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)			
Appendicitis	1	1	2
Other digestive diseases		2	2
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	4		4
Puerperal Sepsis		1	1
Other Puerperal Diseases			
Congenital debility, Premature birth, etc.	3	2	5
Senility			
Suicide			
Other Violence	4	7	11
All Other Causes	13	18	31
Diarrhœa (over 2 years)			
Special Causes			
(Included in No. 35 above)			
Smallpox			
Polio-myelitis			
Polioencephalitis			
Total All Causes	77	71	148

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Typhoid	...	...	...	3
Pneumonia	...	...	...	21
Erysipelas	...	...	...	11
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	12
Diphtheria	...	...	...	46
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	..	...	51
Measles	...	...	...	110

Admitted to Isolation Hospitals—

Scarlet Fever	...	11 cases.
Diphtheria	...	46 „
Typhoid Fever	...	2 „
Measles	...	1 „
Chicken Pox	...	1 „

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0								
1								
5						1		
15	1	2		1				
25	1	3				1		
35	1				1			
45								
55	1	2			2	1		
65 and upward	1				1			
Totals	5	7		1	4	3		

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year ending 31st December, 1941.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I herewith present my Sixteenth Annual Report which, as required by the Ministry of Health, is confined to statistics only.

Yours faithfully,

F. L. GODFREY,

Sanitary Inspector and
Inspector of Meat and Foods.

HOUSING, 1941.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including number given separate under "b") :			
I.	By Local Authority	...	0
II.	By other Local Authorities	...	0
III.	By other bodies or persons	...	0
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :			
I.	By the Local Authority	...	0
	(a) For the purpose of Part II of the Housing Act, 1925	...	0
	(b) For the purpose of Part III of the Housing Act, 1925	...	0
	(c) For other purposes	...	0
II.	By other bodies	...	0

HOUSING STATISTICS, 1941.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—
 - 1 (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 33

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	0
2 (a) Number of dwelling-houses (including under sub-head 1 above, which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, and 1932)	12
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	14
3 Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	0
4 Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	4
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	16
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.	
(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
1 Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	3
2 Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners	3
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
1 Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	13
2 Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners	13
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11, and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

1	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	0
2	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	0

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

1	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	0
2	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement of room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	0

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV (Overcrowding).

(a)	1. Number of Dwellings overcrowded at end of year	...	...	...	...	...	0
	2. Number of Families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	0
	3. Number of Persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	0
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year	...	...	...	...	...	0
(c)	1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year	...	...	...	...	...	0
	2. Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	...	...	0
(d)	Particulars of cases in which Dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.	...	...	...	...	...	0
(e)	Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider desirable to report.	...	...	...	...	...	0

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

*and Work of the Public Health Department,
1941.*

HOUSING.

Number of dwelling-houses completed during year 1941 :—

Detached Houses	...	...	...	...	0
Terrace Houses	...	...	...	...	0
Bungalows	...	...	...	...	0

Total number of dwelling-houses completed during year 1941	...	...	...	...	0
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Public Building, Workshops, etc.	...	...	...	3
----------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	---

Number of houses built during the year for working classes :—

By Local Authority	...	...	...	...	0
By Private Effort (i.e., houses of £450 and under, inclusive of cost)	...	...	...	...	0

Number of new houses or flats required for working class	...	...	...	...	75
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	33
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Cases of overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	2
------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Defective houses repaired	...	...	...	...	27
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„ floors repaired	...	...	...	...	3
-------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

„ roofs repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	5
-----------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

„ yards paved	...	...	...	...	—
---------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

„ external plastering repaired	...	...	...	...	2
--------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

„ internal plastering repaired	...	...	...	...	7
--------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

„ windows repaired	...	...	...	...	3
--------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

„ stoves repaired	...	...	...	...	2
-------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

„ coppers repaired	...	...	...	...	—
--------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Number of houses dealt with under Housing (Rural Workers) Act, 1926 :

During year	...	...	...	...	0
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Total to date	...	...	...	...	23
---------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

DRAINS AND DRAINAGE.

Sewers re-laid during the year :—

Station Hill, 55 yards, 9-in.

Higher Street, 60 yards, 6-in.

North Furzeham Road, 56 yards, 6-in.

Drains tested	...	...	...	...	9
Defective drains repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	6
Certificates issued in respect of drainage of new buildings	...	...	...	...	3
Certificates issued in respect of drainage of existing buildings	...	...	...	...	2
Existing w.c.s fitted with flushing cisterns, or cisterns renewed	...	...	...	...	5
Defective traps removed or replaced with approved stoneware gully traps	...	...	...	...	4
Defective w.c.s repaired	...	...	...	...	7
Automatic cisterns fixed	...	...	...	...	2

The following sanitary fittings have been installed during the year :—

New baths	...	...	...	...	4
W.C.s	...	...	...	...	12
Lavatory basins	...	...	...	...	5
Urinals	...	...	...	...	2
Scullery sinks	...	...	...	...	3
Interceptors	...	...	...	...	6
Septic tanks	...	...	...	...	1
Chemical closets	...	...	...	...	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND DISINFECTION.

Rooms fumigated	...	...	...	...	104
Articles of clothing and bedding disinfected	...	...	...	...	157
Articles of clothing and bedding destroyed	...	...	...	...	38
Rooms disinfected for notifiable infectious disease	...	...	...	...	61
„ „ „ tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	3
„ „ „ verminous condition	...	...	...	...	13
Cases removed to Isolation Hospitals	...	...	...	...	61

MILK AND DAIRIES.

Number of cow-keepers and dairymen registered at end of year :—

Producer Wholesalers	...	...	...	5
Producer Retailers	...	...	...	17
Producer Wholesalers and Retailers	...	...	...	2
Retailers	...	...	...	12
Number removed from register	...	...	...	4
Number of cowsheds in district	...	...	...	26
“ “ without impervious floors	...	...	...	9
“ “ with unsatisfactory drainage	...	...	...	5
“ “ “ “ ventilation	...	...	...	4
“ “ “ “ lighting	...	...	...	2
“ “ “ “ water supply	...	...	...	3
Number of visits to dairies, cowsheds, farms, etc.	...	...	...	19
Number of samples of milk taken for examination :—				
For cleanliness	...	...	...	2
For tuberculosis	...	...	...	—
For adulteration (taken by County Police)	...	...	...	13

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

(Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924)

Number of butchers' shops in the district	...	...	8
Other food shops and stores	...	...	80
Number of visits to butchers' shops	...	...	38
“ “ other food shops and stores	...	...	107

Inspection of Meat and Foods.

Slaughtering in District (except for casuals) ceased January 1940, (M.O.F. Order). All meat is received from Paignton Depot.

WEIGHT OF UNFIT FOOD DESTROYED.

	Tuberculosis	Other Diseases and Conditions	Total Lbs.
	Lbs.	Lbs.	
Beef		88	88
Mutton		38	38
Pork			
Offals		42	
Total		168	126

194 Imported Eggs
 100-lbs. Pork Sausages } decomposition
 24 tins Meat, Vegetables, Fish, Milk, etc.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

Number of slaughter-houses in district :—						
Registered	}	Not	...	...	...	3
Licensed	}	in use	...	...	...	2
Number of visits to slaughter-houses ...						
Number of visits to premises where emergency or						
occasional slaughtering is carried out ...						7

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Number of noxious or offensive trades in district	...	0
---	-----	---

NUISANCES.

Complaints of nuisances received	...	...	...	20
Informal notices served	...	...	...	1
Statutory notices served	...	...	...	2
Nuisances abated without written notice	...	...	...	16

SCHOOLS.

Number of schools in district :—				
Public	...	...	...	5
Private	...	..	...	3
Number of schools found defective				
"	"	notices to managers	...	0
"	"	visits to schools	...	9

BAKEHOUSES.

Number of bakehouses in district	...	...	...	10
"	"	inspections	...	12
"		found defective	...	0
"		of notices to remedy	...	0

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901
AND FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1.—**INSPECTIONS** for purposes of provisions as to health.
 Including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.

Number of factories and workshops registered in district 71

Premises.		Number of		
		Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(1)		(2)	(3)	(4)
Factories with mechanical power ...	22	10		
Factories without mechanical power	39	17	1	
* Other Premises under the Act (including works of building & engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises) ...	10	6	1	
*Electrical stations should be reckoned as factories.				
Total	71	33	2	

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect to which prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S. 1) ...	1	1		
Overcrowding (S. 2) ...				
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3) ...				
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)				
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6) ...				
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7)—				
Insufficient ...				
Unsuitable or defective ...	3	3		
Not separate for sexes ...				
Other offences ...				
(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Section mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937.)				
Total ...	4	4		

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

- (1) (a) Number of Council houses found to be infested 2
 " " " disinfected ... 2
 (b) Number of other houses found to be infested 5
 " " " disinfected .. 5
- (2) Spraying with approved insecticide after removing wallpaper, skirting, etc.
- (3) No action is taken before the removal of tenant's belongings, except inspection by the Sanitary Inspector.
- (4) Work of disinfection is carried out by the Public Health Department.
- (5) Tenants are advised by the Sanitary Inspector as to measures to prevent re-infestation after cleansing.

PETROLEUM AND EXPLOSIVES ACTS.

PARTICULARS OF REGISTRATION.

Number of Licenses granted to store Petroleum Spirit	11
" " " " Carbide of Calcium	2
" " " " Mixed Explosives	2
" " " " Gunpowder and	
Mixed Explosives in Magazines	3

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1910.

Baits are supplied free, on request. During the year some 800 baits were issued, and the results have been very satisfactory.

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For Year ending 31st December, 1941.

No action has been necessary in respect of infectious disease, and the facilities available for treatment, etc., are the same as outlined in my previous reports.

F. L. GODFREY,

Port Health Inspector.



